

all terms, conditions, and provisions of this contract. The Carrier may request Members to complete reasonable forms or provide information which the Carrier may reasonably request; *provided*, however, that the Carrier shall not require Members to complete any form as a precondition of receiving benefits unless the form has first been approved for use by OPM. Notwithstanding Section 2.11 *Claims Processing*, forms requiring specific approval do not include claim forms and other forms necessary to receive payment of individual claims.

(b) When members are required to file claims for covered benefits, benefits shall be paid (with appropriate documentation of payment) within a reasonable time after receipt of reasonable proof covering the occurrence, character, and extent of the event for which the claim is made. The claimant shall furnish satisfactory evidence that all services or supplies for which expenses are claimed are covered services or supplies within the meaning of the contract.

(c) The procedures and time period for receiving benefits and filing claims shall be as specified in the Certified Brochure Text (*Appendix A*). However, failure to file a claim within the time required shall not in itself invalidate or reduce any claim where timely filing was prevented by administrative operations of Government or legal incapacitation, provided the claim was submitted as soon as reasonably possible.

(d) The Carrier may request a Member to submit to one or more medical examinations to determine whether benefits applied for are for services and supplies necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury or covered condition. The examinations shall be made at the expense of the Carrier.

(e) As a condition precedent to the provision of benefits hereunder, the Carrier, to the extent reasonable and necessary and consistent with Federal law, shall be entitled to obtain from any person, organization or Government agency, including the Office of Personnel Management, all information and records relating to visits or examination of, or treatment rendered or supplies furnished to, a

Member as the Carrier requires in the administration of such benefits. The Carrier may obtain from any insurance company or other organization or person any information, with respect to any Member, which it has determined is reasonably necessary to:

- (1) identify enrollment in a plan,
- (2) verify eligibility for payment of a claim for health benefits, and
- (3) carry out the provisions of the contract, such as subrogation, recovery of payments made in error, workers compensation, and coordination of benefits.

(f) When claim filing is required, benefits are payable to the Enrollee in the Plan or his or her assignees. However, under the following circumstances different payment arrangements are allowed:

(1) Reimbursement Payments for the Enrollee. If benefits become payable to the estate of an Enrollee or an Enrollee is a minor, or an Enrollee is physically or mentally not competent to give a valid release, the Carrier may either pay such benefits directly to a hospital or other provider of services or pay such benefits to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the Enrollee determined by the Carrier to be equitably entitled thereto.

(2) Reimbursement Payments for a minor child. If a child is covered as a family member under the Enrollee's self and family enrollment and is in the custody of a person other than the Enrollee, and if that other person certifies to the Carrier that he or she has custody of and financial responsibility for the dependent child, then the Carrier may issue an identification card for the dependent child(ren) to that person and may reimburse that person for any covered medical service or supply.

(3) Reimbursement Payments to family members covered under the Enrollee's self and family enrollment. If a covered child is legally responsible, or if a covered spouse is legally separated, and if the covered person does not reside with the Enrollee and certifies such conditions to the Carrier, then the Carrier may issue an identification card to the person and may reimburse that person for any covered medical service or supply.

(4) Any payments made in good faith in accordance with paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(3) shall fully discharge the Carrier to the extent of such payment.

(g) Overpayments. If the Carrier or OPM determines that a Member's claim has been paid in error for any reason, the Carrier shall make a diligent effort to recover an overpayment to the member from the member or, if to the provider, from the provider. The Carrier shall follow general business practices and procedures in collecting debts owed under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Diligent effort to recover overpayments means that upon discovering an overpayment exists, the Carrier shall--

(1) Send a written notice of overpayment to the member or provider that provides: (A) an explanation of when and how the overpayment occurred, (B) when applicable, cite the appropriate contractual benefit provision, (C) the exact identifying information (i.e., dollar amount overpaid, date paid, check number, date of service and provider name), (D) a request for payment of the debt in full, and (E) an explanation of what may occur should the debt not be paid, including possible offset of future benefits. The notice may also offer an installment option. In addition, the Carrier shall provide the debtor with an opportunity to dispute the existence and amount of the debt before proceeding with collection activities;

(2) After confirming that the debt does exist and in the appropriate amount, send follow-up notices to the member or the provider at 30, 60 and 90 day intervals, if the debt remains unpaid and undisputed;

(3) The Carrier may off-set future benefits payable to the member or to a provider on behalf of the member to satisfy a debt due under the FEHBP if the debt remains unpaid and undisputed for 120 days after the first notice;

(4) After applying the first three steps, refer cases when it is cost effective to do so to a collection attorney or a collection agency

(5) Make diligent effort to recover overpayments until the debt is paid in full or determined to be uncollectible by the Carrier

because it is no longer cost effective to pursue further collection efforts or it would be against equity and good conscience to continue collection efforts;

(6) Suspend recovery efforts for a debt which is based upon a claim that has been appealed as a disputed claim under Section 2.8, until the appeal has been resolved;

(7) The Carrier may charge the contract for benefit payments made erroneously but in good faith provided that it can be documented that it acted with due diligence as described above.

(8) Maintain records that document individual unrecovered overpayment collection activities for audit or future reference.

(h) Overpayment recoveries may be reduced by any legal or collection agency fees expended to obtain the recoveries and which are not otherwise payable under this experience-rated contract. The amount credited to the contract shall be the net amount remaining after deducting the related legal or collection agency fees.

SECTION 2.4

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE AND CONVERSION PRIVILEGES (JAN 1996)

(a) A Member's coverage is terminated as specified in regulations issued by the OPM. Benefits after termination of coverage are as specified in the regulations.

(b) A Member is entitled to a temporary continuation of coverage or an extension of coverage under the conditions and to the extent specified in the regulations.

(c) A Member whose coverage hereunder has terminated is entitled, upon application within the times and under the conditions specified in regulations, to a non-group contract regularly offered for the purpose of conversion from the contract or similar contracts. The conversion contract shall be in compliance with 5 U.S.C., chapter 89, and regulations issued thereunder.

(d) Costs associated with writing or providing benefits under conversion contracts shall not be an allowable cost of this contract.

(e) The Carrier shall maintain on file with

OPM copies of the conversion policies offered to persons whose coverage under this contract terminates and advise OPM promptly of any changes in the policies. The Contracting Officer may waive this requirement where because of the large number of different conversion policies offered by the Carrier it would be impractical to maintain a complete up-to-date file of all policies. In this case the Carrier shall submit a representative sample of the general types of policies offered and provide copies of specific policies on demand.

SECTION 2.5 SUBROGATION (JAN 1996)

The Carrier shall subrogate FEHB claims in the same manner in which it subrogates claims for non-FEHB members, according to the following rules:

(1) The Carrier shall subrogate FEHB claims if it is doing business in a State in which subrogation is permitted, and in which the Carrier subrogates for non-FEHB members;

(2) The Carrier shall subrogate FEHB claims if it is doing business in a State in which subrogation is prohibited, but in which the Carrier subrogates for at least one plan covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA);

(3) The Carrier shall not subrogate if it is doing business in a State that prohibits subrogation, and in which the Carrier does not subrogate for any plan under ERISA;

(4) For Carriers doing business in more than one State, the Carrier shall apply the rules in (1) through (3) of this subsection according to the rule applicable to the State in which the subrogation would take place.

(b) The Carrier's subrogation procedures and policies shall be shown in the Certified Brochure Text.

SECTION 2.6 COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (JAN 1991) (FEHBA 1652.204-71)

(a) The Carrier shall coordinate the payment of benefits under this contract with

the payment of benefits under Medicare, other group health benefits coverages, and the payment of medical and hospital costs under no-fault or other automobile insurance that pays benefits without regard to fault.

(b) The Carrier shall not pay benefits under this contract until it has determined whether it is the primary carrier or unless permitted to do so by the Contracting Officer.

(c) In coordinating benefits between plans, the Carrier shall follow the order of precedence established by the NAIC Model Guidelines for Coordination of Benefits (COB) as specified by OPM.

(d) Where (1) the Carrier makes payments under this contract which are subject to COB provisions; (2) the payments are erroneous, not in accordance with the terms of the contract, or in excess of the limitations applicable under this contract; and (3) the Carrier is unable to recover such COB overpayments from the Member or the providers of services or supplies, the Contracting Officer may allow such amounts to be charged to the contract; the Carrier must be prepared to demonstrate that it has made a diligent effort to recover such COB overpayments.

(e) COB savings shall be reported by experience-rated carriers each year along with the Carrier's annual accounting statement in a form specified by OPM.

(f) Changes in the order of precedence established by the NAIC Model Guidelines implemented after January 1 of any given year shall be required no earlier than the beginning of the following contract term.

[NOTE: Subsection 2.6(b) will not be applied to this experience-rated plan. When there is double coverage for covered benefits, other than emergency services from non-Plan providers, the prepaid plan Carrier will continue to provide benefits in full, but will seek payment for the services and supplies provided, to the extent that the services and supplies are covered by the other coverage, no-fault automobile insurance or other primary plan.]

SECTION 2.7

DEBARMENT AND OTHER SANCTIONS (JAN 1996)

(a) Notwithstanding 5 U.S.C. 8902(j) or any other provision of the law and regulations, if, under 5 U.S.C. 8902a, 5 C.F.R. 970, or Public Law 103-123 (or other applicable appropriations law), a provider is barred from participating in the Program under 5 U.S.C. or the provider's services under 5 U.S.C. are excluded, the Carrier agrees that no payment shall be made by the Carrier pursuant to any contract under 5 U.S.C. (either to such provider or by reimbursement) for any service or supply furnished by such provider during the period of the debarment, except as provided in 5 C.F.R. 970.200 (b).

(b) The OPM shall notify the Carrier when a provider is barred from the FEHBP.

SECTION 2.8

FILING HEALTH BENEFIT CLAIMS/COURT REVIEW OF DISPUTED CLAIMS (JAN 1996)

The processes for filing health benefit claims and for court review of disputed health benefit claims under the FEHB are as described at FEHBP 1652.204-72.

SECTION 2.9

PROTECTION OF MEMBERS AGAINST PROVIDER CLAIMS (JAN 1996)

(a) The Carrier shall provide the Contracting Officer with evidence that its contracts with providers (hospitals and physicians) contain a provision that, in the event of Carrier insolvency, or inability to pay expenses for any reason, the providers shall not look to Members for payment. The Carrier agrees that over 90 percent of the total benefit cost under this contract will be provided under such contracts with providers; or

(b) In lieu of subsection (a) above, the Contracting Officer may accept such other combinations of coverage which provide protection of Members against provider claims

as defined in the NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) Model HMO Act, as amended; or

(c) The Carrier shall provide the Contracting Officer with documentation that it has such other appropriate combinations of coverage which would provide protection of Members against provider claims in the event of Carrier insolvency, or inability to pay expenses for any reason.

(d) The Carrier shall notify the Contracting Officer as soon as it is aware that it will not be able to satisfy the requirements stated in subsections (a), (b), or (c) above.

SECTION 2.10

INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES (JAN 1996)

In order to assure a minimum standard of quality for laboratory services, the Carrier agrees that it will not use independent laboratories which do not comply with Medicare or similar standards.

SECTION 2.11

CLAIMS PROCESSING (JAN 1996)

A standardized claims filing process shall be used by all FEHB carriers. Beginning in 1996, the Carrier shall develop and apply procedures for using the standard claims process. At a minimum the Carrier's program must achieve the following objectives:

(1) By the year 2000, the majority of provider claims should be submitted electronically;

(2) By January 1996, all physicians shall be notified that future claims must be submitted electronically or on the Health Care Financing Administration 1500 form;

(3) Beginning no later than June 1996, the Carrier shall not use any unique physician claim form(s) for such FEHB member claims;

(4) Beginning September 1996, Carrier should reject all such claims submitted on forms other than the HCFA 1500 form and shall explain the reason on the Explanation of Benefits form; and

(5) Carrier shall advise OPM of its progress in implementing this policy as

directed by the Contracting Officer.

SECTION 2.12 CALCULATION OF COST SHARING PROVISIONS (JAN 1996)

When the Member is required to pay a specified percentage of the cost of covered services, the Member's obligation for covered services shall be based on the amount the provider has agreed to accept as full payment, including future discounts that are known and that can be accurately calculated at the time the claim is processed. This includes for example, prompt pay discounts as well as other discounts granted for various business reasons. Any discount not determined at the time of the actual adjudication shall be placed in the Special Reserve upon its determination.

PART III - PAYMENTS, CHARGES AND ACCOUNTING

SECTION 3.1

PAYMENTS (JAN 1995) (FEHBP 1652.232-71)

(a) OPM will pay to the Carrier, in full settlement of its obligations under this contract, subject to adjustment for error or fraud, the subscription charges received for the Plan by the Employees Health Benefits Fund (hereinafter called the Fund) less the amounts set aside by OPM for the Contingency Reserve and for the administrative expenses of OPM, plus any payments made by OPM from the Contingency Reserve.

(b) The specific subscription rates, charges, allowances and limitations applicable to the contract are set forth in Appendix B.

(c) Recurring payments from premiums shall be made available for Carrier and/or underwriter drawdown not later than thirty days after receipt by the Fund. The Contracting Officer may authorize special non-recurring payments from the Contingency Reserve in accordance with OPM's regulations.

(d) In the event this contract between the Carrier and OPM is terminated or not renewed in accordance with General Provision 1.15, Renewal and Withdrawal of Approval, the Contingency Reserve of the Carrier held by OPM shall be available to the Carrier to pay the necessary and proper charges against this contract to the extent that the Carrier reserves are insufficient for that purpose.

SECTION 3.2

ACCOUNTING AND ALLOWABLE COST (JAN 1995) (FEHBP 1652.216-71)

(a) Annual Accounting Statement.

(1) The Carrier, not later than the date specified by the contract, shall furnish to OPM for that contract period an accounting of its operations under the contract. The accounting shall be in the form prescribed by OPM and shall include, among other things, a Balance Sheet and a Summary Statement of

FEHBP Financial Operations. The Summary Statement of FEHBP Financial Operations shall include the following items for each option provided by the contract:

(i) Subscription income received and accrued (including amounts received from the Contingency Reserve);

(ii) Health Benefits charges paid and accrued;

(iii) Administrative expenses and other charges paid and accrued;

(iv) Income on investments;

(v) Other adjustments;

(vi) Sum of items (i) minus (ii) minus (iii) plus (iv) plus or minus (v).

(2) The Carrier shall have its most recent financial statement and that of its underwriter, if any, audited by an accounting firm that ascribes to the standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The report shall be submitted to OPM not later than 180 days after the end of the contract period.

(3) Based on the results of either the independent audit or a Government audit, the Carrier's annual accounting statements may be (i) adjusted by amounts found not to constitute allowable costs; or (ii) adjusted for prior overpayments or underpayments.

(b) Definition of costs.

(1) The allowable costs chargeable to the contract for a contract period shall be the actual, necessary and reasonable amounts incurred with proper justification and accounting support, determined in accordance with the terms of this contract, Subpart 31.2 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Subpart 1631.2 of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation (FEHBP) applicable on the first day of the contract period.

(2) In the absence of specific contract terms to the contrary, contract costs shall be classified in accordance with the following criteria:

(i) Benefits. Benefit costs consist of payments made and liabilities incurred for covered health care services on behalf of

FEHBP subscribers less any refunds, rebates, allowances or other credits received.

(ii) Administrative expenses.

Administrative expenses consist of all allocable, allowable and reasonable expenses incurred in the adjudication of subscriber benefit claims or incurred in the Carrier's overall operation of the business. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, administrative expenses include, in part: all taxes (excluding premium taxes, as provided in section 1631.205-41), insurance and reinsurance premiums, medical and dental consultants used in the adjudication process, concurrent or managed care review when not billed by a health care provider and other forms of utilization review, the cost of maintaining eligibility files, legal expenses incurred in the litigation of benefit payments and bank charges for letters of credit. Administrative expenses exclude the cost of Carrier personnel, equipment, and facilities directly used in the delivery of health care services, which are benefit costs, and the expense of managing the FEHBP investment program which is a reduction of investment income earned.

(iii) Investment income. The Carrier is required to invest and reinvest all funds on hand, including any in the Special Reserve or any attributable to the reserve for incurred but unpaid claims, which are in excess of the funds needed to discharge promptly the obligations incurred under the contract. Investment income represents the net amount earned by the Carrier after deducting investment expenses as a result of investing the FEHBP funds. The direct or allocable indirect expenses incurred in managing the investment program, such as consultant or management fees, are chargeable against the investment income earned.

(iv) Other charges. (A) Mandatory statutory reserve. Charges for mandatory statutory reserves are not allowable unless specifically provided for in the contract. When the term "mandatory statutory reserve" is specifically identified as an allowable contract charge without further definition or explanation, it means a requirement imposed

by State law upon the Carrier to set aside a specific amount or rate of funds into a restricted reserve that is accounted for separately from all other reserves and surpluses of the Carrier and which may be used only with the specific approval of the State official designated by law to make such approvals. The amount chargeable to the contract may not exceed an allocable portion of the amount actually set aside. If the statutory reserve is no longer required for the purpose for which it was created, and these funds become available for the general use of the Carrier, a pro rata share based upon FEHBP's contribution to the total Carrier's set aside shall be returned to the FEHBP in accordance with FAR 31.201-5.

(B) Premium taxes. When the term "premium taxes" is used in this contract without further definition or explanation, it means a tax imposed by State or local statutes upon the Carrier's gross or net premiums received.

(c) Certification of Accounting Statement Accuracy.

(1) The Carrier shall certify the annual accounting statement in the form set forth in paragraph (c)(3) of this clause. The certificate shall be signed by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the Carrier.

(2) The Carrier shall require an authorized agent of its underwriter, if any, also to certify the annual accounting statement.

(3) The certificate required shall be in the following form:

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTING
STATEMENT ACCURACY**

This is to certify that I have reviewed this accounting statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. The statement was prepared in conformity with the guidelines issued by the Office of Personnel Management and fairly presents the financial results of this contract period in conformity with those guidelines;

2. The costs included in the statement are allowable and allocable in accordance with the terms of the contract and with the cost principles of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation and the

Federal Acquisition Regulation;

3. Income, rebates, allowances, refunds and other credits made or owed in accordance with the terms of the contract and applicable cost principles have been included in the statement;

4. If applicable, the letter of credit account was managed in accordance with 5 CFR Part 890, 48 CFR Chapter 16, and OPM guidelines.

CARRIER NAME:

NAME OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:(TYPE OR PRINT)

NAME OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:(TYPE OR PRINT)

SIGNATURE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:

DATE SIGNED:

UNDERWRITER:

NAME AND TITLE OF RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE OFFICIAL:
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED: (END OF CERTIFICATE)

[NOTE: As required by subsection (a)(1) of this section, the Carrier, not later than 90 days after the end of the contract period, shall furnish OPM for that period an accounting of its operations under the contract.]

SECTION 3.3

SPECIAL RESERVE (JAN 1996)

(a) This contract is experience rated. The Special Reserve represents the cumulative difference between income to the plan (subscription income plus interest on investments [item (a)(1)(vi) in Section 3.2 *Accounting and Allowable Cost*, which also includes income gain or loss]) and plan expenses (benefit costs plus allowable administrative expenses and retentions). The Special Reserve held by or on behalf of the Carrier is to be used only for payment of charges against this contract.

(b) If this contract is terminated or not renewed and there is a positive balance remaining in the Special Reserve after all allowable costs chargeable to the contract in accordance with Section 3.2 plus an agreed-upon amount of administrative expenses for contract liquidation have been paid, the

balance of any funds held by the Carrier, including current income on its investment, shall be paid to OPM for credit to the Carrier's Contingency Reserve maintained by OPM when the Carrier submits its annual accounting statement for the final contract year.

(c) The Carrier shall incorporate this clause in all agreements with underwriters of the Carrier's FEHB Plan.

SECTION 3.4

INVESTMENT INCOME (JAN 1991) (FEHBAR 1652.215-71)

(a) The Carrier shall invest and reinvest all FEHB funds on hand that are in excess of the funds needed to promptly discharge the obligations incurred under this contract. The Carrier shall seek to maximize investment income with prudent consideration to the safety and liquidity of investments.

(b) All investment income earned on FEHB funds shall be credited to the Special Reserve on behalf of the FEHBP.

(c) When the Contracting Officer concludes that the Carrier failed to comply with paragraphs (a) or (b) of this clause, the Carrier shall credit the Special Reserve with investment income that would have been earned, at the rate(s) specified in paragraph (f) of this clause, had it not been for the Carrier's noncompliance. "Failed to comply with paragraphs (a) or (b)" means: (1) making any charges against the contract which are not allowable, allocable, or reasonable; or (2) failing to credit any income due the contract and/or failing to place excess funds, including subscription income and payments from OPM not needed to discharge promptly the obligations incurred under the contract, refunds, credits, payments, deposits, investment income earned, uncashed checks, or other amounts owed the Special Reserve, in income producing investments and accounts.

(d) Investment income lost as a result of unallowable, unallocable, or unreasonable charges against the contract shall be paid from the first day of the contract term

following the contract term in which the unallowable charge was made and shall end on the earlier of: (1) the date the amounts are returned to the Special Reserve (or the Office of Personnel Management); (2) the date specified by the Contracting Officer; or (3) the date of the Contracting Officer's Final Decision.

(e) Investment income lost as a result of failure to credit income due the contract or failure to place excess funds in income producing investments and accounts shall be paid from the date the funds should have been invested or appropriate income was not credited and shall end on the earlier of: (1) the date the amounts are returned to the Special Reserve (or the Office of Personnel Management); (2) the date specified by the Contracting Officer; or (3) the date of the Contracting Officer's Final Decision.

(f) The Carrier shall credit the Special Reserve for income due in accordance with this clause. All amounts payable shall bear lost investment income compounded semiannually at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury as provided in Section 12 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-563), which is applicable to the period in which the amount becomes due, as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this clause. Thereafter, the rate shall be the rate applicable for each 6-month period as fixed by the Secretary until the amount is paid.

(g) The Carrier shall incorporate this clause into agreements with underwriters of the Carrier's FEHB plan and shall substitute "underwriter" or other appropriate reference for the term "Carrier".

SECTION 3.5

NON-COMMINGLING OF FUNDS (JAN 1991) (FEHBA 1652.232-72)

(a) The Carrier and/or its underwriter shall keep all FEHBP funds for this contract (cash and investments) physically separate from funds obtained from other sources. Accounting for such FEHBP funds shall not be based on allocations or other sharing

mechanisms and shall agree with the Carrier's accounting records.

(b) In certain instances the physical separation of FEHBP funds may not be practical or desirable. In such cases, the Carrier may request a waiver from this requirement from the Contracting Officer. The waiver shall be requested in advance and the Carrier shall demonstrate that accounting techniques have been established that will clearly measure FEHBP cash and investment income (i.e., subsidiary ledgers). Reconciliations between amounts reported and actual amounts shown in accounting records shall be provided as supporting schedules to the Annual Accounting Statements.

(c) The Carrier shall incorporate this clause in all subcontracts that exceed \$25,000 and shall substitute "contractor" or other appropriate reference for "Carrier and/or its underwriter".

SECTION 3.6

UNCASHED CHECKS (JAN 1996)

Payment of checks issued pursuant to this contract shall be voided if the checks have been outstanding for two (2) years. The amounts represented by these checks shall be credited to the Special Reserve of this contract no later than the 25th month after issuance. The term "Check" shall include any written instrument issued to pay or reimburse the payment of benefits, or any services, supplies or subcontracts hereunder.

SECTION 3.7

SERVICE CHARGE (JAN 1996)

(a) Any service charge negotiated shall be set forth in Appendix B and shall be the total profit that can be charged to the contract. The amount set forth in Appendix B shall encompass all profit (whether entitled service charge, profit, fee, contribution to reserves or surpluses or any other title) that may be included in major subcontracts in accordance with the provisions of FEHBA 1631.205-80, Major Subcontractor Service Charges.

(b) One-twelfth of the service charge for the contract term accrues on the last day of each month during the contract term. The Carrier shall withdraw the service charge from the Special Reserve when it accrues.

(c) If this contract is renewed by operation of section 1.15(a), the amount of the service charge accrued under (b) shall be "one-twenty-fourth" rather than "one-twelfth." The remainder of the service charge not otherwise accrued during the contract term shall accrue on the last day of the contract term.

(b) Unless a different period is specified in the Contracting Officer's written approval, an assignment shall be in force only for a period of one year from the date of the Contracting Officer's approval. However, assignments may be renewed upon their expiration.

SECTION 3.8 CONTRACTOR RECORDS RETENTION (JAN 1991) (FEHBAR 1652.204-70)

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5.7 [FAR 52.215-2(d)] *Audit-Negotiation* [Reference to Standard Form 1412 deleted] the Carrier of a contract of \$500,000 or more will retain and make available all records applicable to a contract term that support the annual statement of operations and the rate submission for that contract term for a period of 5 years after the end of the contract term to which the records relate, except that individual enrollee and/or patient claim records shall be maintained for 3 years after the end of the contract term to which the claim records relate.

*[Changes to above JAN 1991 clause
are made as directed in 60 FAR
48206 9/18/95]*

SECTION 3.9 APPROVAL FOR ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS (JAN 1991) (FEHBAR 1652.232-73)

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5.35 [FAR 52.232-23] *Assignment of Claims*, the Carrier shall not make any assignment under the Assignment of Claims Act without the prior written approval of the Contracting Officer.

PART IV -- SPECIAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 4.1

ALTERATIONS IN CONTRACT (JAN 1996)

(a) Section 3.2. As required by Public Law 101-508, § 8909 of title 5, U.S.C., and Section 3.2(b)(ii) of this contract are amended by the following:

(1) No tax, fee, or other monetary payment may be imposed, directly or indirectly, on a Carrier or an underwriting or plan administration subcontractor of an approved health benefits plan by any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or by any political subdivision or other governmental authority thereof, with respect to any payment made from the Fund.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to exempt any Carrier or subcontractor of an approved health benefits plan from the imposition, payment, or collection of a tax, fee, or other monetary payment on the net income or profit accruing to or realized by such Carrier or underwriting or plan administration subcontractor from business conducted under this Chapter, if that tax, fee, or payment is applicable to a broad range of business activity.

(b) Sections 5.30, 5.31, 5.32. Cost Accounting Standards, part 30 of the FAR, has not yet been implemented for the FEHBP. Sections 5.30, 5.31 and 5.32 are not applicable to this contract.

PART V - REQUIRED CLAUSES

SECTION 5.1

DEFINITIONS. (SEPT 1991) (FAR 52.202-1)

(a) "Head of the agency" (also called "agency head") or "Secretary" means the Secretary (or Attorney General, Administrator, Governor, Chairperson, or other chief official, as appropriate) of the agency; and the term "authorized representative" means any person, persons, or board (other than the Contracting Officer) authorized to act for the head of the agency or Secretary.

(b) Commercial component means any component that is a commercial item.

(c) Commercial item means--

(1) Any item, other than real property, that is of a type customarily used for nongovernmental purposes and that--

(i) Has been sold, leased, or licensed to the general public; or

(ii) Has been offered for sale, lease, or license to the general public;

(2) Any item that evolved from an item described in paragraph (c)(1) of this clause through advances in technology or performance and that is not yet available in the commercial marketplace, but will be available in the commercial marketplace in time to satisfy the delivery requirements under a Government solicitation;

(3) Any item that would satisfy a criterion expressed in paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this clause, but for--

(i) Modifications of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace; or

(ii) Minor modifications of a type not customarily available in the commercial marketplace made to meet Federal Government requirements. "Minor" modifications means modifications that do not significantly alter the nongovernmental function or essential physical characteristics of an item or component, or change the purpose of a process. Factors to be considered in determining whether a modification is minor include the value and size of the modification and the comparative value and size of the final product. Dollar

values and percentages may be used as guideposts, but are not conclusive evidence that a modification is minor;

(4) Any combination of items meeting the requirements of paragraphs (c)(1), (2), (3), or (5) of this clause that are of a type customarily combined and sold in combination to the general public;

(5) Installation services, maintenance services, repair services, training services, and other services if such services are procured for support of an item referred to in paragraphs (c)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this clause, and if the source of such services--

(i) Offers such services to the general public and the Federal Government contemporaneously and under similar terms and conditions; and

(ii) Offers to use the same work force for providing the Federal Government with such services as the source uses for providing such services to the general public;

(6) Services of a type offered and sold competitively in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace based on established catalog or market prices for specific tasks performed under standard commercial terms and conditions. This does not include services that are sold based on hourly rates without an established catalog or market price for a specific service performed;

(7) Any item, combination of items, or service referred to in subparagraphs (c)(1) through (c)(6), notwithstanding the fact that the item, combination of items, or service is transferred between or among separate divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliates of a Contractor; or

(8) A nondevelopmental item, if the procuring agency determines the item was developed exclusively at private expense and sold in substantial quantities, on a competitive basis, to multiple State and local Governments.

(d) Component means any item supplied to the Federal Government as part of an end item or of another component.

(e) Nondevelopmental item means--

(1) Any previously developed item of supply used exclusively for governmental purposes by a Federal agency, a State or local government, or a foreign government with which the United States has a mutual defense cooperation agreement;

(2) Any item described in paragraph (e)(1) of this definition that requires only minor modification or modifications of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace in order to meet the requirements of the procuring department or agency; or

(3) Any item of supply being produced that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) or (e)(2) solely because the item is not yet in use.

(f) "Contracting Officer" means a person with the authority to enter into, administer, and/or terminate contracts and make related determinations and findings. The term includes certain authorized representatives of the Contracting Officer acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the Contracting Officer.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in this contract, the term "subcontracts" includes, but is not limited to, purchase orders and changes and modifications to purchase orders under this contract.

SECTION 5.2 [RESERVED]

SECTION 5.3 GRATUITIES. (APR 1984) (FAR 52.203-3)

(a) The right of the Contractor to proceed may be terminated by written notice if, after notice and hearing, the agency head or a designee determines that the Contractor, its agent, or another representative -

(1) Offered or gave a gratuity (e.g., an entertainment or gift) to an officer, official, or employee of the Government; and

(2) Intended, by the gratuity, to obtain a contract or favorable treatment under a contract.

(b) The facts supporting this determination may be reviewed by any court having lawful jurisdiction.

(c) If this contract is terminated under paragraph (a) above, the Government is entitled -

(1) To pursue the same remedies as in a breach of the contract; and

(2) In addition to any other damages provided by law, to exemplary damages of not less than 3 nor more than 10 times the cost incurred by the Contractor in giving gratuities to the person concerned, as determined by the agency head or a designee. (This subparagraph (c)(2) is applicable only if this contract uses money appropriated to the Department of Defense.)

(d) The rights and remedies of the Government provided in this clause shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

SECTION 5.4 COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES. (APR 1984) (FAR 52.203-5)

(a) The Contractor warrants that no person or agency has been employed or retained to solicit or obtain this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a contingent fee, except a bona fide employee or agency. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Government shall have the right to annul this contract without liability or, in its discretion, to deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of the contingent fee.

(b) "Bona fide agency," as used in this clause, means an established commercial or selling agency, maintained by a contractor for the purpose of securing business, that neither exerts nor proposes to exert improper influence to solicit or obtain Government contracts nor holds itself out as being able to obtain any Government contract or contracts through improper influence.

"Bona fide employee," as used in this clause, means a person, employed by a contractor and subject to the contractor's supervision and control as to time, place, and manner of performance, who neither exerts nor proposes to exert improper influence to

solicit or obtain Government contracts nor holds out as being able to obtain any Government contract or contracts through improper influence.

"Contingent fee", as used in this clause, means any commission, percentage, brokerage, or other fee that is contingent upon the success that a person or concern has in securing a Government contract.

"Improper influence," as used in this clause, means any influence that induces or tends to induce a Government employee or officer to give consideration or to act regarding a Government contract on any basis other than the merits of the matter.

SECTION 5.5

ANTI-KICKBACK PROCEDURES. (JUL 1995) (FAR 52.203-7)

(a) Definitions.

"Kickback," as used in this clause, means any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation of any kind which is provided, directly or indirectly, to any prime Contractor, prime Contractor employee, subcontractor, or subcontractor employee for the purpose of improperly obtaining or rewarding favorable treatment in connection with a prime contract or in connection with a subcontract relating to a prime contract.

"Person," as used in this clause, means a corporation, partnership, business association of any kind, trust, joint-stock company, or individual.

"Prime contract," as used in this clause, means a contract or contractual action entered into by the United States for the purpose of obtaining supplies, materials, equipment, or services of any kind.

"Prime Contractor," as used in this clause, means a person who has entered into a prime contract with the United States.

"Prime Contractor employee," as used in this clause, means any officer, partner, employee, or agent of a prime Contractor.

"Subcontract," as used in this clause, means a contract or contractual action entered into by a prime Contractor or

subcontractor for the purpose of obtaining supplies, materials, equipment, or services of any kind under a prime contract.

"Subcontractor," as used in this clause, (1) means any person, other than the prime Contractor, who offers to furnish or furnishes any supplies, materials, equipment, or services of any kind under a prime contract or a subcontract entered into in connection with such prime contract, and (2) includes any person who offers to furnish or furnishes general supplies to the prime Contractor or a higher tier subcontractor.

"Subcontractor employee," as used in this clause, means any officer, partner, employee, or agent of a subcontractor.

(b) The Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 (41 U.S.C. 51-58) (the Act), prohibits any person from --

(1) Providing or attempting to provide or offering to provide any kickback;

(2) Soliciting, accepting, or attempting to accept any kickback; or

(3) Including, directly or indirectly, the amount of any kickback in the contract price charged by a prime Contractor to the United States or in the contract price charged by a subcontractor to a prime Contractor or higher tier subcontractor.

(c)(1) The Contractor shall have in place and follow reasonable procedures designed to prevent and detect possible violations described in paragraph (b) of this clause in its own operations and direct business relationships.

(2) When the Contractor has reasonable grounds to believe that a violation described in paragraph (b) of this clause may have occurred, the Contractor shall promptly report in writing the possible violation. Such reports shall be made to the inspector general of the contracting agency, the head of the contracting agency if the agency does not have an inspector general, or the Department of Justice.

(3) The Contractor shall cooperate fully with any Federal agency investigating a possible violation described in paragraph (b) of this clause.

(4) The Contracting Officer may (i) offset

the amount of the kickback against any monies owed by the United States under the prime contract and/or (ii) direct that the Prime Contractor withhold, from sums owed a subcontractor under the prime contract, the amount of any kickback. The Contracting Officer may order the monies withheld under subdivision (c)(4)(ii) of this clause be paid over to the Government unless the Government has already offset those monies under subdivision (c)(4)(i) of this clause. In either case, the Prime Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer when the monies are withheld.

(5) The Contractor agrees to incorporate the substance of this clause, including this subparagraph (c)(5) but excepting subparagraph (c)(1), in all subcontracts under this contract which exceed \$100,000.

SECTION 5.6 [RESERVED]

SECTION 5.7 AUDIT AND RECORDS - NEGOTIATION (OCT 1995) (FAR 52.215-2)

(a) As used in this clause, records includes books, documents, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of whether such items are in written form, in the form of computer data, or in any other form.

(b) Examination of costs. If this is a cost-reimbursement, incentive, time-and-materials, labor-hour, or price redeterminable contract, or any combination of these, the Contractor shall maintain and the Contracting Officer, or an authorized representative of the Contracting Officer, shall have the right to examine and audit all records and other evidence sufficient to reflect properly all costs claimed to have been incurred or anticipated to be incurred directly or indirectly in performance of this contract. This right of examination shall include inspection at all reasonable times of the Contractor's plants, or parts of them, engaged in performing the contract.

(c) Cost or pricing data. If the Contractor

has been required to submit cost or pricing data in connection with any pricing action relating to this contract, the Contracting Officer, or an authorized representative of the Contracting Officer, in order to evaluate the accuracy, completeness, and currency of the cost or pricing data, shall have the right to examine and audit all of the Contractor's records, including computations and projections, related to--

(1) The proposal for the contract, subcontract, or modification;

(2) The discussions conducted on the proposal(s), including those related to negotiating;

(3) Pricing of the contract, subcontract, or modification; or

(4) Performance of the contract, subcontract or modification.

(d) Comptroller General--(1) The Comptroller General of the United States, or an authorized representative, shall have access to and the right to examine any of the Contractor's directly pertinent records involving transactions related to this contract or a subcontract hereunder.

(2) This paragraph may not be construed to require the Contractor or subcontractor to create or maintain any record that the Contractor or subcontractor does not maintain in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to a provision of law.

(e) Reports. If the Contractor is required to furnish cost, funding, or performance reports, the Contracting Officer or an authorized representative of the Contracting Officer shall have the right to examine and audit the supporting records and materials, for the purpose of evaluating (1) the effectiveness of the Contractor's policies and procedures to produce data compatible with the objectives of these reports and (2) the data reported.

(f) Availability. The Contractor shall make available at its office at all reasonable times the records, materials, and other evidence described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this clause, for examination, audit, or reproduction, until 3 years after final payment under this contract or for any shorter period specified in Subpart 4.7, Contractor Records